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May 27, 2003

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RECEIVED  
MAY 28 2003  
GROUP 1700

Re: U.S. Patent Application No. 10/050,907  
Filed: January 18, 2002  
For: **Apparatus And Methods For Separating Liquids From Solids**  
Inventor: Willie Stroup  
Our Ref: 02514.0007.NPUS01

Sir:

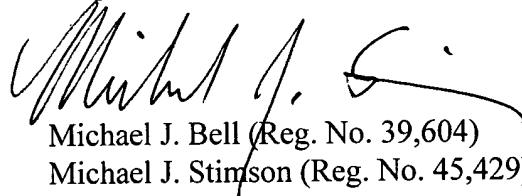
The following documents are forwarded herewith for appropriate action by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office:

1. Reply and Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.111; and
2. Return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the filing date of these documents and returned to our courier.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No.08-3038 referencing docket number 02514.0007.NPUS01. If extensions of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 other than those otherwise provided for herewith are required to prevent abandonment of the present patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned, and any fees therefor are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No.08-3038 referencing the above docket number. A duplicate copy of this letter is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael J. Bell (Reg. No. 39,604)  
Michael J. Stimson (Reg. No. 45,429)

Enclosures



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

# 704044  
3/29/03  
OJ Butler

In re application of:

STROUP *et al.*

Appl. No. 10/050,907

Filed: January 18, 2002

For: Apparatus and Methods for Separating  
Liquids From Solids

Art Unit: 1723

Examiner: Menon

Atty. Docket: 02514.0007.NPUS01

**Amendment and Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated February 26, 2003, (PTO Prosecution File Wrapper Paper No. 6), Applicants submit the following Amendment and Remarks.

***Amendment***

Kindly enter the following amendment to the claims:

*Please cancel claims 16-21.*

*Please amend claim 1 to read:*

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1. An apparatus for reducing the percentage of liquid in a liquid and solids mixture comprising:

- (a) a holding chamber for receiving a liquid and solids mixture,
- (b) a conduit for directing liquid from the liquid and solids mixture away from said chamber,
- (c) a filter separating said conduit from said chamber,
- (d) a membrane forming a substantially air-tight seal over said chamber and in substantial contact with the liquid and solids mixture, and
- (e) a means for reducing pressure in said conduit;